

SECRET

4 September 1952

Mr. R. D. Marriott
Head, BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading, England

Dear Marriott:

At the forthcoming meeting of the Joint Coordinating Committee we feel the following items should be included in the agenda:

1. Coverage of the Baltic States -- It is our hope that we will be prepared at the time of the meeting to present the views of the American agencies on the need for monitoring coverage of the North-western USSR regional transmitters. Your report on the results of the survey will serve as the basis of our discussion.

2. Asiatic Coverage -- In addition to explaining what steps we have taken and what our plans are to improve coverage of Asia, we should like your views on:

a. Monitoring from Pakistan.

b. The possibility of BBC exploitation of the recently announced monitoring organisation of the Post and Telegraph Department of India.

3. The Standardization Committee -- This Committee while serving a useful purpose in theory has not been very productive because of its limited authority and the fact that its responsibilities have not been clearly delineated. I believe that we both may encounter difficulty in overcoming the views of our respective staffs on techniques and procedures. I think it would be not appropriate for us to discuss in detail any particular differences at Joint Coordinating Committee meetings, but rather to encourage greater activity in the Standardization Committee.

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4. Overlapping Coverage of Cyprus and Caversham — This problem appears to us to require:

a. Clarification of the basic principle of allocation as agreed in the last meeting.

b. Possible seasonal exchange of staff.

5. FBIS Propaganda Analysis — We should like to take the opportunity of the meeting to explain our efforts in this activity with the hope that you may find the product of our analysis valuable and may better understand its potential capacities and limitations.

6. Communications — I believe that a review of our communications arrangements would lead to a conviction in both of our services that the existing facilities provide a maximum of service at a minimum of cost, and that whereas improved handling may result in greater efficiency, the basic structure of our communications network is sound.

7. Emergency Action — FBIS would like to discuss informally, insofar as is consistent with the emergency plans of each service, joint action which could be taken to maintain or restore essential coverage in the event of damage to or loss of installations or facilities in time of war. We do not desire to encroach on the formal war planning of either the BBC or the FBIS, but to discuss possible immediate measures by which one service could supplement the reduced coverage of the other.

If you would like any further explanation from us on any of the subjects mentioned above or if you would like us to explain our position on any of them, I will attempt to give you an informal statement before your departure. Also, if there are any subjects listed that you feel should be deleted for any reason, please feel free so to state.

We are looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the meeting and hope that it will prove as valuable as I am sure it will be pleasant.

Sincerely,

AMW/pgc - 27 Aug 52, rewrote 4 Sep 52
Add - Orig & 1
OO - 1
Admin files - 1
BBC file - 1
AMW - 1
Chief, Lon Bur - 1

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